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PRESENT

Amaama-kun no okashi na yuuwaku

BY TOKINO MITSURU

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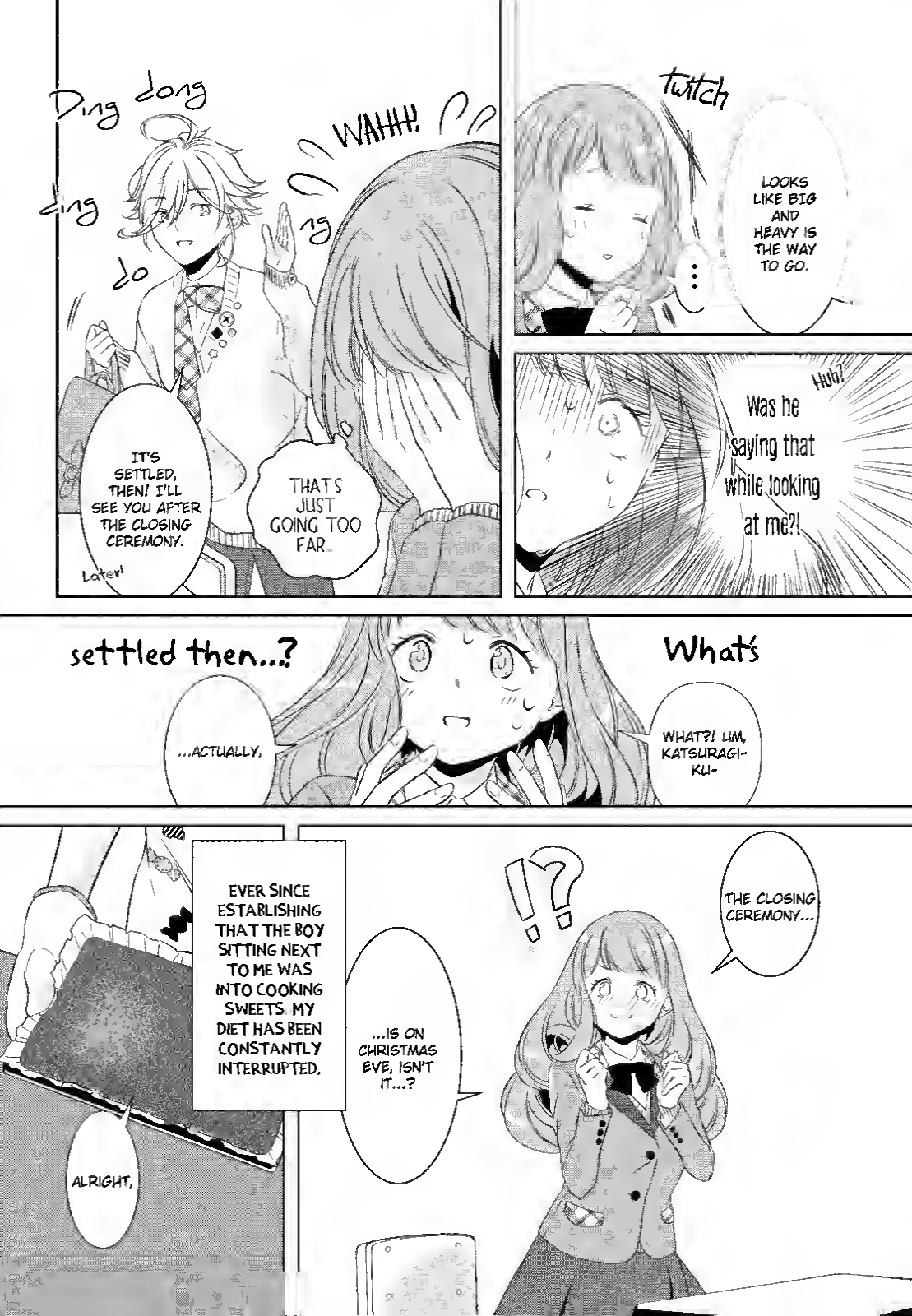
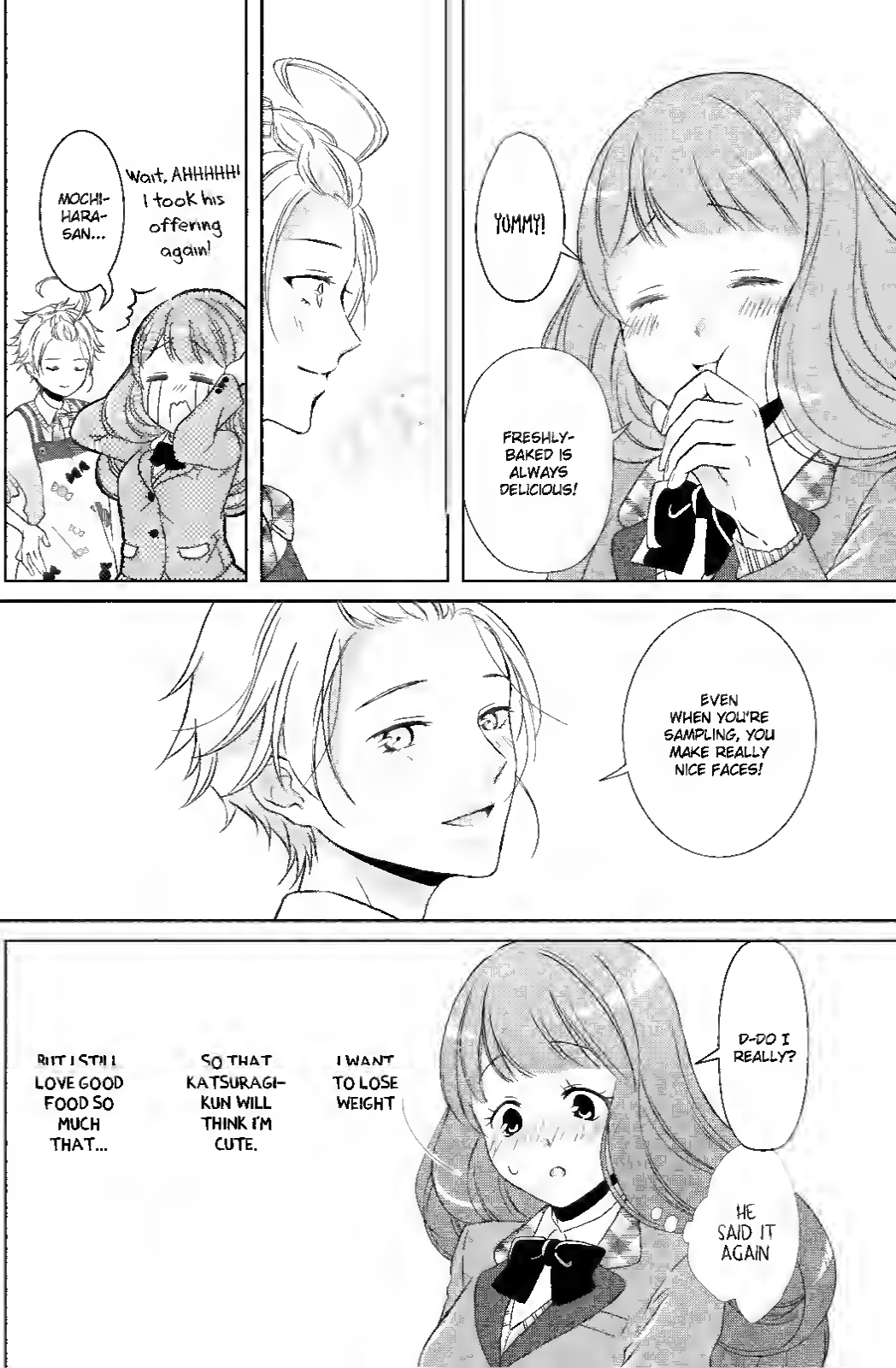
plate 2
Christmas Eve and Yule Log to the Rescue!

HI! IT'S MOCHI-BELLIED MOCHIKO! ...I MEAN YUTAKA MOCHIHARA.
CURRENTLY IN A ONE-SIDED LOVE WITH THE BOY IN THE SEAT NEXT TO MINE BOTAN KATSURAGI-KUN.
LOOKING DREAMY AS USUAL TODAY I WONDER IF HE'S LOST IN THOUGHT
Ah, almost forgot
TO CATCH KATSURAGI'S EYE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT...
beep
5095
SFX SIGH
YES! 5,000 STEPS!!
...I'M WORKING HARD AT MY DIET, BUT...
JUST LIKE THIS
waft
BURN. BABY. BURN.
BURN AWAY, FAT!!
nom

WAIT, KATSURAGI-KUN?!
those little guys
I DECIDED TO TRY MAKING THOSE LITTLE GUYS THAT I ONLY SAW IN ENGLISH CLASS. ARE THEY GOOD?
-lay~
KATSURAGI'S SWEET KEY POINTERS!
Add store-bought ginger (as much as you like)! When adding the butter and wheat flour mixing them in together is key!
WHAT'S THIS?!
CINNAMON, MAPLE, AND... GINGER...?
AMAZING... THE MORE I CHEW, THE MORE WONDERFUL SMELLS EMERGE...
DELICIOUS, HUH...
I'M GLAD.
THEY'RE DELICIOUS!!! BUT WE'RE IN CLASS RIGHT NOW! AND I...
Y. YEAH...
THIS IS BAD! THE LONGER I'M NEXT TO HIM, THE LESS WEIGHT I CAN BURN...
There go my morning 5,000 steps...
...YUP,

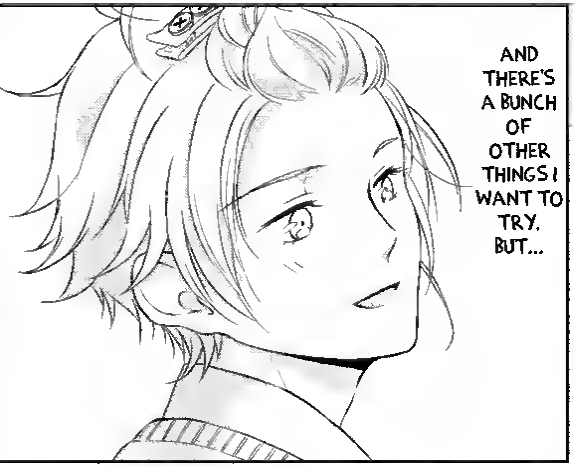

Ding dong
ding
dong
WAHH!
IT'S SETTLED, THEN! I'LL SEE YOU AFTER THE CLOSING CEREMONY.
Later!
THAT'S JUST GOING TOO FAR...
twitch
LOOKS LIKE BIG AND HEAVY IS THE WAY TO GO.
Huh?
Was he saying that while looking at me?!
settled then...?
...ACTUALLY,
What's
WHAT?! UM, KATSURAGI-KU-
EVER SINCE ESTABLISHING THAT THE BOY SITTING NEXT TO ME WAS INTO COOKING SWEETS, MY DIET HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTED.
ALRIGHT,
...IS ON CHRISTMAS EVE, ISN'T IT...?
!?
THE CLOSING CEREMONY...

THE SWEETS OF EVIL ARE BACK AGAIN!!
TIME TO MAKE A BIG AND HEAVY YULE LOG CAKE!
EH?
HERE, HAVE A BITE.
NO, NOT THIS TIME TODAY I EAT IN MODERATIOIN, TO 80% CAPACITY.. NO! ONLY IN SAMPLES, SOMEWAY, SOMEHOW
!
HOW'S IT TASTE?
chomp

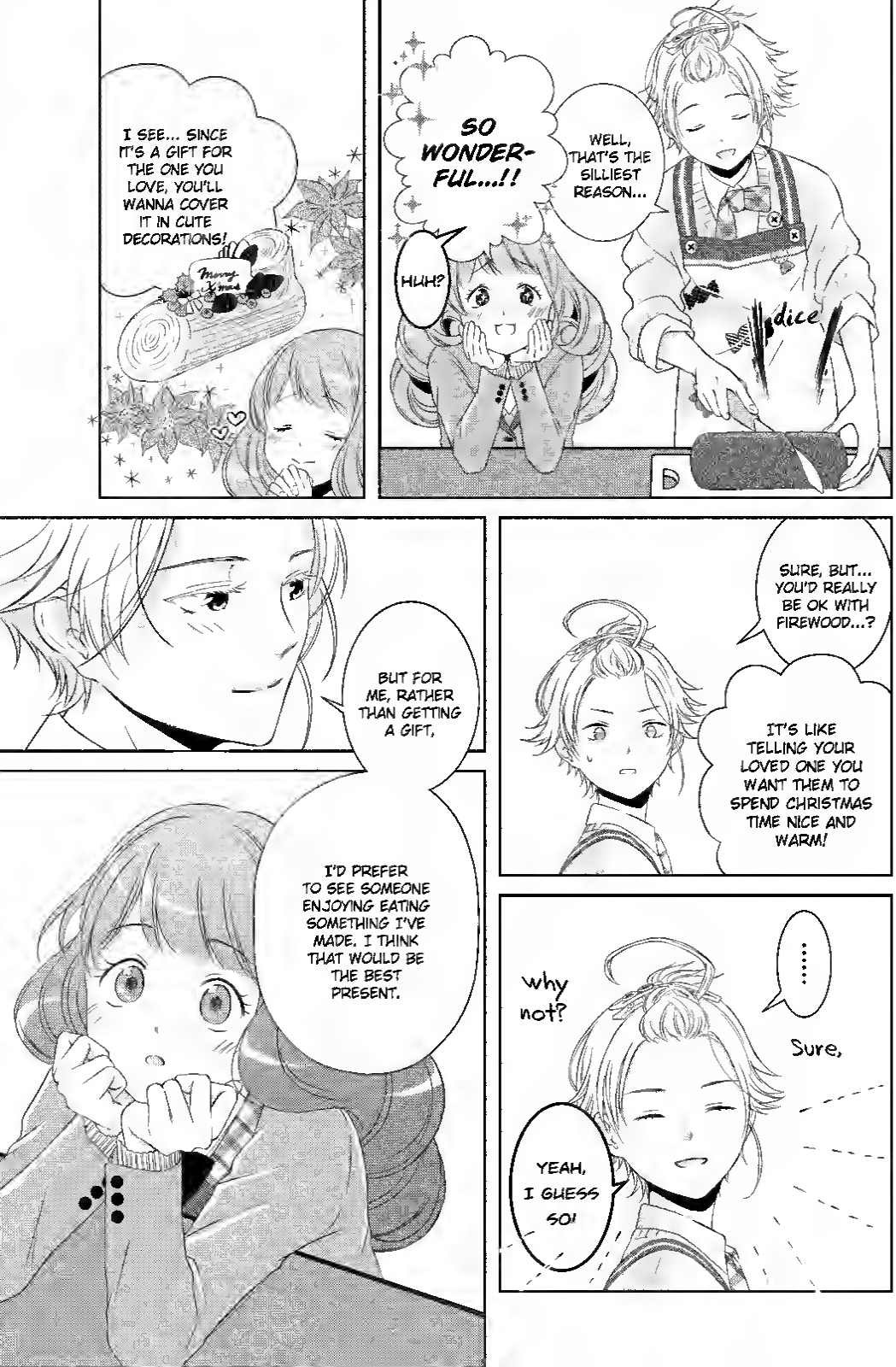

MOCHI-HARA-SAN...
Wait, AHHHHH! I took his offering again!
YUMMY!
FRESHLY-BAKED IS ALWAYS DELICIOUS!
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE SAMPLING, YOU MAKE REALLY NICE FACES!
BUT I STILL LOVE GOOD FOOD SO MUCH THAT...
SO THAT KATSURAGI-KUN WILL THINK I'M CUTE.
I WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT
D-DO I REALLY?
HE SAID IT AGAIN

YOU GOT SOME ICE CREAM ON YOUR FACE.
EH?
KATSURAGI-KUN ACTUIALLY COMPLIMENTS MY BIZARRE FACES WHILE I'M EATING!
PREMIUM COFFEE
北海道 FRESH CREAM

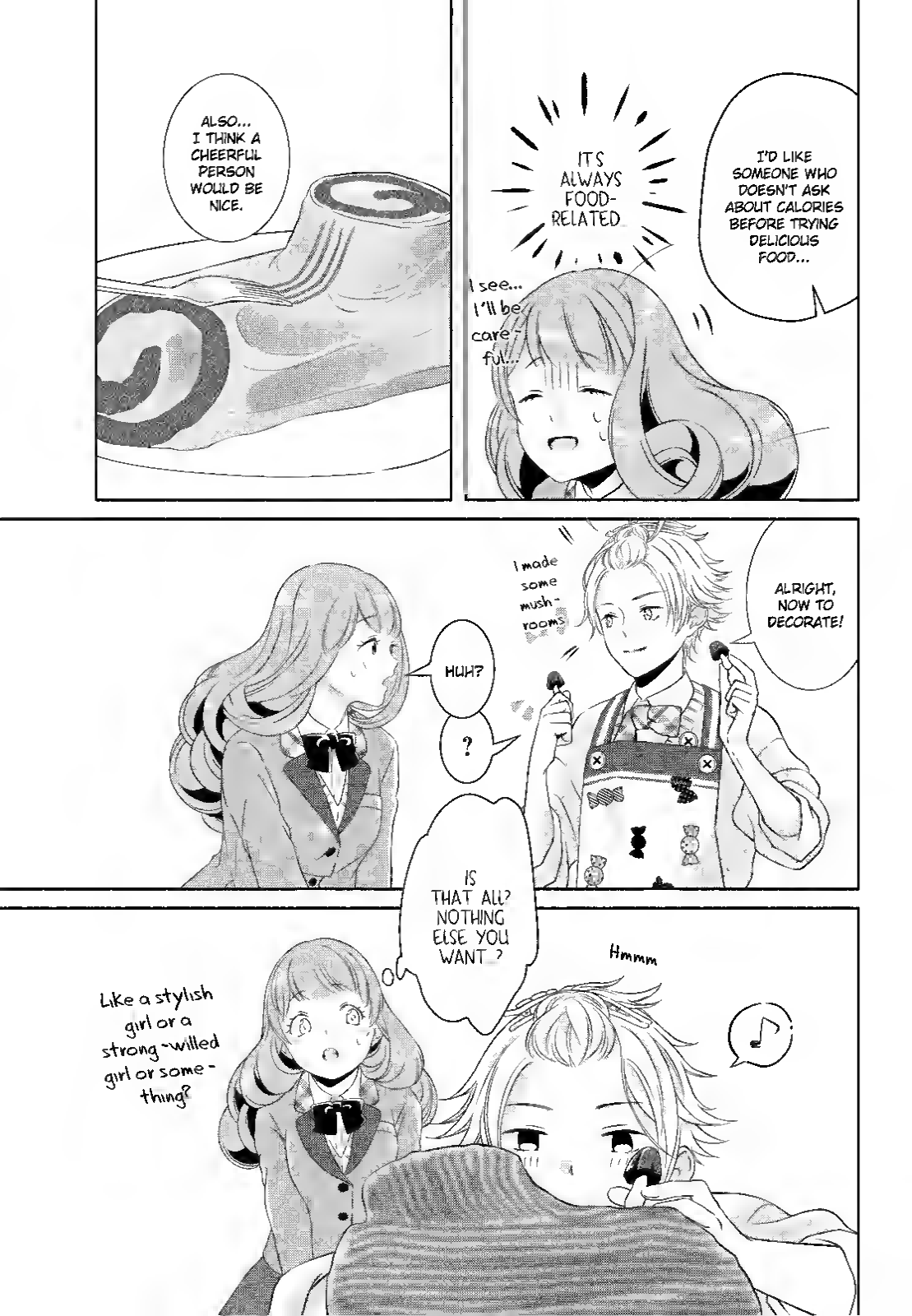
RIGHT TO LEFT HOKKAIDO FRESH CREAM ECONOMY-SIZED CHOCOLATE



I WONDER IF IT ALREADY RESEMBLED A LOG OR SOMEONE JUST HAPPENED TO WANNA MAKE ONE OUT OF IT.
HMM. . NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, WHY EVEN SHAPE IT LIKE A CHRISTMAS LOG?
?
THE FIRST PERSON TO THINK OF MAKING ROLL CAKE IN THE SHAPE OF A LOG WAS PRETTY SMART.
OH YEAH! THERE WAS A BELIEF THAT A POOR MAN WOULD GIVE FIREWOOD TO HIS LOVER AS A HUMBLE CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
I LOOKED IT UP BEFORE AND DESPITE BEING SO FAMOUS, THEY DON'T HAVE A CLEAR ANSWER.
MANY BELIEVE IT TO HAVE TIES TO RELIGIOUS CUSTOMS, AND APPARENTLY IT WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO BE FIREWOOD.


I SEE... SINCE IT'S A GIFT FOR THE ONE YOU LOVE, YOU'LL WANNA COVER IT IN CUTE DECORATIONS!
Merry Xmas
SO WONDER-FUL...!!
WELL, THAT'S THE SILLIEST REASON...
HUH?
dice
BUT FOR ME, RATHER THAN GETTING A GIFT,
I'D PREFER TO SEE SOMEONE ENJOYING EATING SOMETHING I'VE MADE. I THINK THAT WOULD BE THE BEST PRESENT.
SURE, BUT... YOU'D REALLY BE OK WITH FIREWOOD...?
IT'S LIKE TELLING YOUR LOVED ONE YOU WANT THEM TO SPEND CHRISTMAS TIME NICE AND WARM!
why not?
.....
Sure,
YEAH, I GUESS SO!

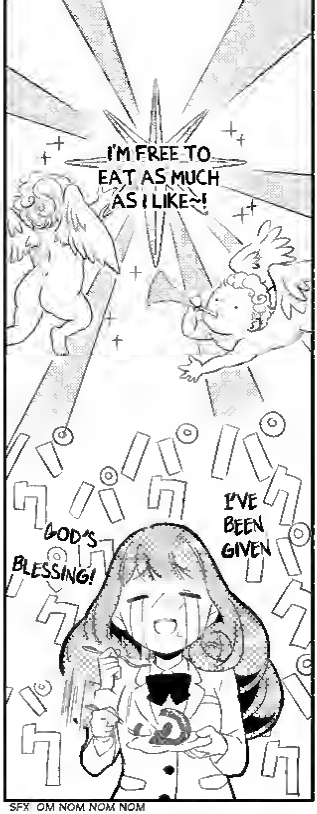
IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN THAT MEANS...
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING NOW I CAN HAVE FUN MAKING SWEETS...
AND EVEN IF I KEEP EATING ALL I WANT LIKE BEFORE I CAN STILL STAY BY KATSURAGI-KUNS SIDE...?
THAT'D BE THE BEST PRESENT... FOR YOU...?
YUP.
HMM, LET'S SEE...
UH... UM, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?
ANY-THING ELSE?
ANYTHING ELSE... YOU THINK YOUR PERFECT GIRLFRIEND WOULD BE LIKE?


ALSO... I THINK A CHEERFUL PERSON WOULD BE NICE.
I'D LIKE SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T ASK ABOUT CALORIES BEFORE TRYING DELICIOUS FOOD...
IT'S ALWAYS FOOD-RELATED
I see... I'll be care-ful...
I made some mush-rooms
ALRIGHT, NOW TO DECORATE!
HUH?
?
IS THAT ALL? NOTHING ELSE YOU WANT?
Hmmm
Like a stylish girl or a strong-willed girl or some-thing?

HE REALLY DOES MAKE ALL THE DECORATIVE SWEETS HIMSELF
Button stickers because his name is Botan ?
Jingle
MOCHIHARA-SAN, YOU TRY IT TOO!
There's cookies, too
...OK.
C'MON.
You have a steady hand.
VOILA!
NOW ATTACH THE WREATH...

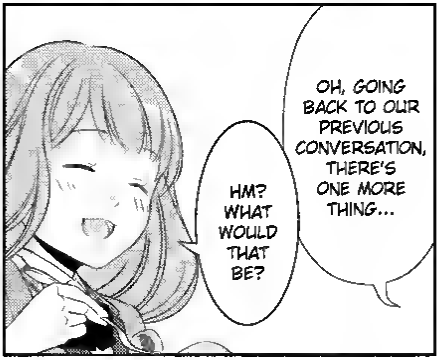
SEE? FIRE-WOOD CAN BE A WONDERFUL AND ELEGANT GIFT!
ABSO-LUTELY.
ALRIGHT THEN...
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

THAT I'D BE SPENDING CHRISTMAS TOGETHER WITH MY CRUSH. KATSURAGI-KUN...
OK...
HERE, HAVE SOME.
I NEVER WOULD HAVE DREAMED ...
EATING SUCH A DELICIOUS HOMEMADE CAKE!
Ahhh
AND MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...

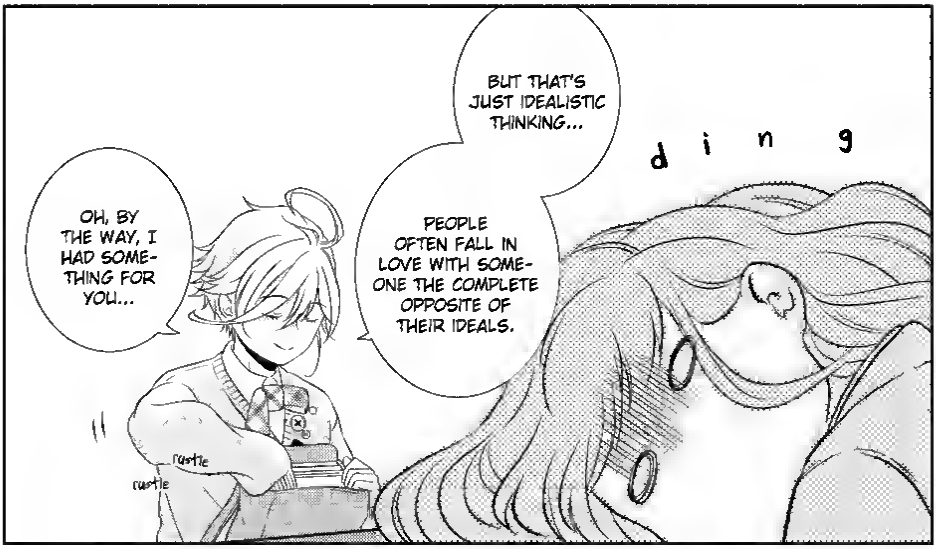

I'M FREE TO EAT AS MUCH AS I LIKE~!
I'VE BEEN GIVEN
GOD'S BLESSING!
SFX: OM NOM NOM NOM

KATSURAGI-KUN IS THIS HAPPY JUST TO SEE ME EAT.

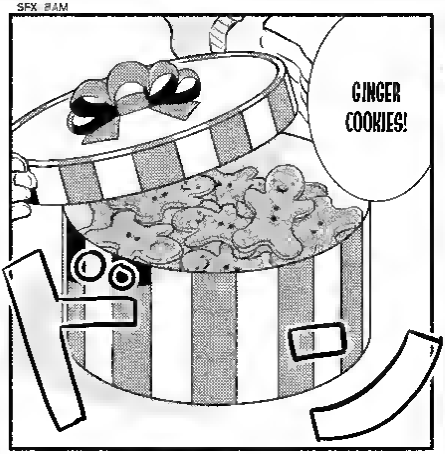
SFX: FLOP
IT'S NO USE!


OH, GOING BACK TO OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION, THERE'S ONE MORE THING...
HM? WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

MY PERFECT GIRLFRIEND WOULD HAVE DAINTY, SLENDER ANKLES LIKE THIS THAT WOULD MAKE MY HEART RACE.
.....


BUT THAT'S JUST IDEALISTIC THINKING...
PEOPLE OFTEN FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF THEIR IDEALS.
d i n g
OH, BY THE WAY, I HAD SOMETHING FOR YOU...
rustle
rustle

YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU LIKED THE FIRST ONE SO MUCH, I MADE A BUNCH MORE!


SFX: BAM
GINGER COOKIES!

SFX: GASP
Wait, I know where this is going...!
.....!

AND I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I SHOULD BE SPENDING IT...
ARE THOSE TEARS OF JOY~?
IT'S MY FIRST TIME IN THE SEASON OF LOVE...
OH... THANKS...
TO BE CONTINUED
IN VOLUME 2!